

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 XMB-02

TRSE-00 EB-08 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 /090 W

-----035323 082324Z /66

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1295

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR MULTILATERAL AID TO ZAIRE

REF: STATE 183831

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF CHEF DE CABINET CAHEN, WE CONVEYED TODAY THE U.S. REACTION (REFTEL) TO THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR COORDINATING MULTILATERAL AID TO ZAIRE TO CAHEN'S DEPUTY, ONKELINX. THE LATTER TOOK NOTES ON OUR ORAL COMMENTS AND UNDERTOOK TO REPORT TO FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET (AND TO CAHEN) UPON THEIR RETURN FROM HOLIDAY AUGUST 10.

2. ONKELINX SAID THE GOB WILL HAVE FURTHER TO SAY ON THE ZAIRE AID QUESTION AFTER IT RECEIVES AND DIGESTS THE RESPONSES FROM THE GOVERNMENTS IT HAS APPROACHED. HE DID OFFER THE FOLLOWING INTERIM OBSERVATIONS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION.

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-- BELGIUM HAS UNDERTAKEN THIS INITIATIVE UPON REQUEST OF MOBUTU AND HAS NO AMBITION FOR A ROLE SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS PLAYS IN THE INDONESIA AID PROGRAM. GOB THEREFORE WILL NOT BE ATTEMPTING ON ITS OWN TO CONVENE MEETINGS OF DONOR COUNTRIES.

-- GOB HAS REPORTING FROM KINSHASA WHICH INDICATES THAT MOBUTU IS PLANNING TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THIS RESPECT. APPARENTLY HE HAS IN MIND AN INVITATION TO DONOR COUNTRIES TO CONFER WITH THE GOZ IN KINSHASA IN THE CONTEXT OF GOZ'S DRAWING UP THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY/ DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH MOBUTU INTENDS TO PROCLAIM IN NOVEMBER.

-- GOB WELL UNDERSTANDS THAT THE IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP OPERATES UNDER IBRD CHAIRMANSHIP. BELGIUM HAS NO WISH TO MODIFY THIS ARRANGEMENT NOR TO TRY TO CREATE AN INNER CIRCLE WITHIN THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

-- BISENGIMANA, WHOM ONKELINX DESCRIBES AS VERY MUCH BACK IN THE GAME AS A MOBUTU ADVISOR AND AGENT, WAS IN BRUSSELS A FEW DAYS AGO AND CONFERRED WITH BELGIAN AUTHORITIES ON MOBUTU'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLANS.

-- BELGIUM DOES NOT SEE ANY KIND OF CONSULTATION, IN KINSHASA OR ELSEWHERE TAKING PLACE BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

3. COMMENT: THE BELGIAN POSTURE AS ADUMBRATED IN THE FOREGOING IS NOTICEABLY LESS ASSERTIVE AND DEFINITE THAN THAT PROJECTED IN ITS "INFORMAL PAPER" OF TWO WEEKS AGO. NO DOUBT THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE IT IS ONKELINX, NOT SIMONET OR CAHEN TALKING. BUT THE IMAGE OF MOBUTU
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AS THE MOTOR BEHIND THE BELGIAN "INITIATIVE" IS EMERGING MORE CLEARLY. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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